

# Fair Britain Isle

*An Elegy for Henry, Prince of Wales, d. 1612*

William Byrd

Voice

Treble Viol

Tenor Viol

Tenor Viol

Bass Viol

Fair Bri-tain isle,

Detailed description: This system contains the first five staves of the musical score. The top staff is for the Voice, with lyrics 'Fair Bri-tain isle,'. Below it are four staves for violas: Treble Viol, two Tenor Viols, and Bass Viol. The music is in common time (C) and the key signature has one flat (B-flat). The voice part begins with a whole note 'Fair', followed by a half note 'Bri-tain', and a quarter note 'isle,'. The instrumental parts provide a harmonic accompaniment.

5

Voice

Treble Viol

Tenor Viol

Tenor Viol

Bass Viol

fair Bri-tain isle, the Mis-

Detailed description: This system contains the next five staves of the musical score, starting at measure 5. The voice part continues with 'fair Bri-tain isle, the Mis-'. The instrumental parts continue their accompaniment. The notation includes various note values and rests across all staves.

8

Voice

Treble Viol

Tenor Viol

Tenor Viol

Bass Viol

tress of the West, Fa-mous for wealth,

Detailed description: This system contains the final five staves of the musical score, starting at measure 8. The voice part concludes with 'tress of the West, Fa-mous for wealth,'. The instrumental parts provide a final accompaniment. The notation includes various note values and rests across all staves.

12

but more for fer- tile soil,

15

Sits all a- lone with sor- rows sore op-

18

press'd, with sor- rows sore op- press'd,

21

In sa- ble clad by Death's, by Death's

24

most spite- ful spoil;

28

Who took a- way, in mo- ment, in mo- ment of one

31

hour, Hen- ry our Prince, Hen- ry our Prince of Prin-

35

ces all the flow'r, of Prin- ces all

38

the flow'r. Who took a- the flow'r.

1. Fair Britain Isle, the Mistress of the West,  
Famous for wealth, but more for fertile soil,  
Sits all alone with sorrow sore oppres'd  
In sable clad by Death's most spiteful spoil;  
Who took away in moment of one hour,  
Henry our Prince of Princes all the flow'r.

2. O noble Prince! who can tell ev'ry gift  
Of virtues rare which in thy life did shine?  
Much like that famous King Henry the fift,  
Who left behind renown to be divine.  
This time shall tell, while skies do stars unfold:  
That with thee died the hope of age of gold.